

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Overarching Goal: *County residents in both Urban and Rural Areas have access to the public services needed in order to advance public health and safety, protect the environment, and carry out the regional vision.*

Urban and Rural Levels of Service

The Growth Management Act directs jurisdictions and special purpose districts to provide public facilities and services to support development. The Growth Management Act distinguishes between urban and rural services and states that land within the Urban Growth Area should be provided with a full range of services necessary to sustain urban communities while land within the Rural Area should receive services to support a rural lifestyle. Certain services, such as sanitary sewers, are allowed only in the Urban Growth Area, except as otherwise authorized. The Growth Management Act also requires jurisdictions to determine which facilities are necessary to serve the desired growth pattern and how they will be financed, in order to ensure timely provision of adequate services and facilities.

PF-1 Provide a full range of urban services in the Urban Growth Area to support the Regional Growth Strategy and adopted growth targets and limit the availability of services in the Rural Area consistent with VISION 2040.

Collaboration Among Jurisdictions

More than 100 special purpose districts, including water, sewer, flood control, stormwater, fire, school and other districts, provide essential services to the residents of King County. While cities are the primary providers of services in the Urban Growth Area, in many parts of the county special purpose districts also provide essential services. Coordination and collaboration among all of these districts, the cities, King County, the tribes, and neighboring counties is key to providing efficient, high-quality and reliable services to support the Regional Growth Strategy.

PF-2 Coordinate among jurisdictions and service providers to provide reliable and cost-effective services to the public.

PF-3 Cities are the appropriate providers of services to the Urban Growth Area, either directly or by contract. Extend urban services through the use of special districts only where there are agreements with the city in whose Potential Annexation Area the extension is proposed. Within the Urban Growth Area, as time and conditions warrant, cities will assume local urban services provided by special service districts.

Utilities

Utilities include infrastructure and services that provide water supply, sewage treatment and disposal, solid waste disposal, energy, and telecommunications. Providing these utilities in a cost-effective way is essential to maintaining the health and safety of King County residents and to implementing the regional growth strategy.

Water Supply

Conservation and efficient use of water resources are vital to ensuring the reliability of the region's water supply, the availability of sufficient water supplies for future generations, and the environmental sustainability of the water supply system.

PF-4 Develop plans for long-term water provision to support growth and to address the potential impacts of climate change on regional water resources.

PF-5 Support efforts to ensure that all consumers have access to a safe, reliably maintained, and sustainable drinking water source that meets present and future needs.

PF-6 Coordinate water supply among local jurisdictions, tribal governments, and water purveyors to provide reliable and cost-effective sources of water for all users, including residents, businesses, fire districts, and aquatic species.

PF-7 Plan and locate water systems in the Rural Area that are appropriate for rural uses and densities and do not increase the development potential of the Rural Area.

PF-8 Recognize and support agreements with water purveyors in adjacent cities and counties to promote effective conveyance of water supplies and to secure adequate supplies for emergencies.

PF-9 Implement water conservation and efficiency efforts to protect natural resources, reduce environmental impacts, and support a sustainable long-term water supply to serve the growing population.

PF-10 Encourage water reuse and reclamation, especially for high-volume non-potable water users such as parks, schools, and golf courses.

Sewage Treatment and Disposal

Within the Urban Growth Area, connection to sanitary sewers is necessary to support the Regional Growth Strategy and to accommodate urban densities. Alternatives to the sanitary sewer system and the typical septic system are becoming more cost effective and therefore, more available. Alternative technology may be appropriate when it can perform as well or better than sewers in the Urban Growth Area. Septic systems are not considered to be alternative technology within the Urban Growth Area.

In the Rural Area and Resource Lands, which are characterized by low-density development, sewer service is not typically provided. In cases where public health is threatened, sewers can be provided in the Rural Area but only if connections are strictly limited. Alternative technology may be necessary to substitute for septic systems in the Rural Area.

PF-11 Require all development in the Urban Growth Area to be served by a public sewer system except:

- a) single-family residences on existing individual lots that have no feasible access to sewers may utilize individual septic systems on an interim basis; or
- b) development served by alternative technology other than septic systems that:
 - provide equivalent performance to sewers;
 - provide the capacity to achieve planned densities; and
 - will not create a barrier to the extension of sewer service within the Urban Growth Area.

PF-12 Prohibit sewer expansion in the Rural Area and Resource Lands except where needed to address specific health and safety problems threatening existing structures. If needed, provide such sewer expansion in a manner that does not increase development potential in the Rural Area.

Solid Waste

King County and the entire Puget Sound region are recognized for successful efforts to collect recyclable waste. Continuing to reduce and reuse waste will require concerted and coordinated efforts well into the future. It is important to reduce the waste stream going into area landfills to extend the usable life of existing facilities and reduce the need for additional capacity.

PF-13 Reduce the solid waste stream and encourage reuse and recycling.

Energy

While King County consumers have access to electrical energy derived from hydropower, there are challenges for securing long-term reliable energy and for becoming more energy efficient.

PF-14 Reduce the rate of energy consumption through efficiency and conservation as a means to lower energy costs and mitigate environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies.

PF-15 Promote the use of renewable and alternative energy resources to help meet the county's long-term energy needs, reduce environmental impacts associated with traditional energy supplies, and increase community sustainability.

Telecommunications

A telecommunications network throughout King County is essential to fostering broad economic vitality and equitable access to information, goods and services, and opportunities for social connection.

PF-16 Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure to serve growth and development in a manner consistent with the regional and countywide vision.

Human and Community Services

Public services beyond physical infrastructure are also necessary to sustain the health and quality of life of all King County residents. In addition, these services play a role in distinguishing urban communities from rural communities and supporting the Regional Growth Strategy.

PF-17 Provide human and community services to meet the needs of current and future residents in King County communities through coordinated planning, funding, and delivery of services by the county, cities, and other agencies.

PF-18 Locate human, community, and educational services and facilities that serve urban populations within the Urban Growth Area, where they are accessible to the populations that they serve. Site these services and facilities in locations that are well served by transit and pedestrian and bicycle networks.

PF-19 Locate human, community, and educational services and facilities that serve rural residents in neighboring cities, rural towns, and rural neighborhood centers.

Siting Public Capital Facilities

While essential to growth and development, regional capital facilities can disproportionately affect the communities in which they are located. It is important that all jurisdictions work

collaboratively and consider environmental justice principles when siting these facilities to foster the development of healthy communities for all.

PF-20 Site or expand public capital facilities of regional or statewide importance within the county in a way that equitably disperses impacts and benefits and supports the Countywide Planning Policies.